



## Ten Lessons Learned

### Lesson One----

Youth Permanency is defined more broadly than permanency for younger children.

Youth permanency consists of :

At least one adult;

- A safe, stable, secure parenting like relationship;
- Love;
- Unconditional commitment;
- Lifelong support;
- Involvement of the youth as a participant or leader of the process;
- Opportunities to make firm connections with important people including siblings.

### Lesson Two----

Successful youth permanency work involves the youth in their own permanency planning.

### Lesson Three----

Youth are a **valuable resource** in their own permanency planning.

### Lesson Four----

Foster youth are **not necessarily eager** to pursue permanency at the outset. The pain and losses that they have suffered are barriers that need to be worked through.

### **Lesson Five----**

Our belief systems are critical to success in youth permanency work. **We believe that permanency is essential and urgent for foster youth and we can make it happen!!!!**

Examples: You Gotta Believe in New York City—Pat O'Brien, 800-601-1779, [ygbpat@msn.com](mailto:ygbpat@msn.com)

FAST in Tacoma, WA--- Mary Stone Smith, 253-0984, [Maryss@ccsww.org](mailto:Maryss@ccsww.org)

### **Lesson Six----**

**Mining case records** and talking already known relatives and connections about possibilities can yield additional resources for possible connections.

### **Lesson Seven----**

Use of **new technology**, through special family finding search engines can help child welfare agencies find many more extended family members and other connections than ever possible before.

Helpful Sites include:

[www.knowx.com](http://www.knowx.com)- A white pages search

[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)- very strong with many options

[www.ussearch.com/familyfinders/](http://www.ussearch.com/familyfinders/) - Broad access to multiple possible relatives and family friends.

For more information contact: Kevin Campbell, [kcampbell@emq.org](mailto:kcampbell@emq.org)

### **Lesson Eight----**

It is critical that we search for family on the paternal side of the family as well as the maternal side.

### **Lesson Nine----**

These technological tools coupled with sound assessment, casework and formation of teams with youth, families and other possible connections can lead to permanency for many youth.

### **Lesson Ten----**

The need for permanent lifelong connections among our foster youth is **URGENT** and must be approached as such!!!

